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# Rival factions fighting in 2 locations in Libya

By Roger Fontaine  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

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There were reports of fighting between rival military factions at two separate locations following a long-awaited television appearance by the Libyan leader — 48 hours after American air strikes on his country — in which he accused President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of "murdering children."

The intelligence sources said Col. Qaddafi left Tripoli for Sabha, a fortified oasis in southwest Libya. It was not clear whether he had gone because he feared further American military action or whether he had fled a coup attempt.

Sabha is Col. Qaddafi's home village. In the past the colonel has returned to this region and his native tribe, Qadhaf-al-Dam, when he felt his life in danger.

In an unconfirmed report, ABC News quoted intelligence sources as saying that there had been a mutiny by troops at the Libyan army barracks at Tarhunnah, 40 miles from Tripoli. National Public Radio also reported fighting between army and air force units.

It could not be ascertained whether Col. Qaddafi's TV appearance was live or taped, or whether it took place in Tripoli. But his discussion of the American air raid proved he had survived it.

His two-day absence after the American attack had touched off a flood of rumors around the world — that he had gone to North Yemen, had been wounded, had been deposed in a coup or was dead.

In his television appearance, the Arab leader, whom Washington regards as one of the principal supporters of international terrorism, appeared to be in a subdued state of mind, but he said he would not cease to back guerrillas worldwide.

"We will not abandon our incitement of popular revolution, whatever raids they carry out," said Col. Qaddafi.

But he said he had never killed anyone and suggested that airport massacres and assaults on U.S. airliners linked to the Qaddafi government were the work of American intelligence agents.

President Reagan, he said, "should be put on trial as a war criminal and murderer of children."

But the Libyan leader, whose infant daughter was reported by Libyan officials to have been killed in the raid, told Americans, "We will not kill your children. We are not like you; we do not bombard cities."

Col. Qaddafi's remarks contrasted sharply with harsh threats broadcast earlier in the day, when the Libyan state radio angrily urged Arab nations to attack U.S. targets and kill American children.

"Children are being slaughtered at the hands of the aggressive American pirates," it said. "The killer of an innocent child does not deserve mercy. He should pay the price. Kill him after you kill his children in front of him."

"Everything that is American is a legitimate target that should be hit, destroyed, torn apart and crushed."

Col. Qaddafi's appearance on Libyan television, during which he disclaimed responsibility for anti-American terror attacks, dispelled growing speculation that he had been killed or seriously injured in the Tuesday morning air raid, when a U.S. warplane dropped one bomb just 10 yards from the Qaddafi residence in his fortress headquarters here.

Earlier last night, anti-aircraft fire streaked the black skies over this seaside capital for a second day, and gunfire ricocheted around the headquarters compound. Government officials denied the street gunfire signaled factional fighting among the Libyans.

Anti-aircraft crews first opened up in mid-afternoon at what officials said was a high-flying U.S. reconnaissance jet. A Washington source acknowledged that reconnaissance planes had flown over this north African nation.

The Libyans also reported new U.S. air attacks yesterday against Tripoli and towns south and east of here. But the Pentagon denied it, and reporters here found no signs of new bombardments.

For almost two full days after the damaging U.S. air bombardment of Tripoli, Col. Qaddafi had remained out of sight. Earlier yesterday, he failed to appear for a promised meeting with journalists at his headquarters.

Then, at 11:15 last night, Tripoli time, the Libyan leader appeared on state television dressed in a white army uniform, speaking from an unfamiliar studio with a map of Africa behind him.

"We are ready to die and we are ready to carry on fighting and defending our country," he declared, speaking in Arabic.

He said President Reagan "has issued orders to his armed forces to kill our children. We have not issued any orders to murder anybody."

The attacks, which the United States said were targeted on five security and military installations in Tripoli and the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, also severely damaged a civilian neighborhood in Tripoli. Western diplomats said at least 100 people and probably many more were killed in Tripoli alone.

Doctors said Col. Qaddafi's 15-month-old adopted daughter, Hana, was among the dead, and his two sons, aged 4 and 3½, were seriously injured.

Alluding to U.S. allegations that the Libyan government plotted the bombing of a Berlin nightclub April 5 in which a U.S. soldier was killed and 63 other Americans were injured, Col. Qaddafi said: "Perhaps the American intelligence carried out these operations. Possibly a Palestinian carried them out. Anyone else could have carried out these operations."

After the 21-minute speech, dem-

onstrations broke out in the streets of Tripoli, and drivers honked their horns, apparently in joy over their leader's speech.

Tripoli has been blacked out since Tuesday's bombing. Lights around the hotel, in the port and along the coast flashed back on after the speech.

In Beirut, Lebanon, the Abu Nidal organization, the most feared Palestinian terror group, issued a statement warning that U.S. institutions "will be the target of our retaliatory blows." The threats put Americans on alert internationally.

The Libyans claimed the Americans launched new attacks later Tuesday — reports denied by the United States — and said yesterday that U.S. warplanes hit targets in Tripoli; in Tarhounah, 50 miles south of here; and in Allous, 40 miles east of Tripoli. Four aircraft were shot down, according to the Libyan report.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman denied the report, saying, "There is no U.S. military activity in Libya."

In mid-afternoon, the Libyan government took a busload of journalists to Col. Qaddafi's headquarters, the Azziziyah barracks, a sprawling, walled complex of barracks and administration buildings several miles from central Tripoli. They were told they would meet with the Libyan leader.

But Col. Qaddafi was not at the compound, and Libyan officials declined to explain why.

As the journalists' bus first approached the headquarters, Libyan soldiers rushed out from the front gate, fanned out and began firing assault rifles. The bus wheeled around and headed back to the journalists' hotel, and Libyan drivers maneuvered frantically to get away from the gunfire.

Journalists who saw bullets ricocheting off the streets believed the shooting might have been related to an internal power struggle. But furious Libyan officials denied it.

"The soldiers heard an airplane and began firing," a Libyan spokesman said.

In Washington, gleeful Reagan administration officials said the Libyans were "not functioning too well and reacting in panic."

A half-hour later, the journalists again were taken to the headquarters through calm streets with no evidence of factional fighting.

Bombs and shells had severely damaged the two-story Qaddafi family residence, blasted a tennis court, knocked down power lines and left a mess of shrapnel and debris in the compound. A huge crater just 10 yards from the residence indicated the force of a bomb that sent shrapnel through the walls and knocked down plaster and some walls.

Libya's official news agency, in a statement attributed to the "revolution leadership," declared that the "socialist community, led by the U.S.S.R., should shoulder its international responsibilities in an actual war being waged by NATO against a small neutral people."

*This article is based in part on wire service reports*

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